

The stories and comments from Communist sources reproduced here give a fair picture of Communist concern with RIAS broadcasts. What they do not reveal is that among RIAS's regular listeners are Communist functionaries on all levels. Reliable visitors from the Soviet Zone have reported the fact again and again. In some towns of the Zone, meetings of the Socialist Unity Party or other Communist organizations cannot be started as early in the evening as the leaders wish. Until 8.00 p.m., too many members are listening to the nightly program "Berlin Speaks to the Zone." Prior to the severance of Soviet Sector telephone connections, RIAS staff members tested these reports by telephoning, under false names, prominent leaders of the Soviet German regime and expressing concern over something just broadcast. The usual response was positive. For instance, on October 5, 1950, a member of the RIAS Political Department telephoned State Secretary Wunderlich at his East Berlin home. Announcing himself as vice-chairman of a Soviet Sector "peace committee," the staff member asked Wunderlich if he had heard RIAS's special broadcasts calling on East Berliners to take part in the ration-card balloting for all-Berlin elections. Wunderlich's reply was: "Yes, yes, we're all listening to the broadcasts. Tomorrow we will discuss what to do about them."

A political refugee recently wrote: "For three years I was a member of the Liberal Democratic Party and mayor of a small town in the Soviet Zone. At 1230 and 1930 (hours of two important RIAS newscasts) everyone sat by the radio receiver. Even SED meetings could not be scheduled before 2000 hours. At a meeting of the National Front our State Councillor declared, 'I know you all listen to RIAS. It complicates our work a great deal.'"

Anti - RIAS Press Campaign

"Volksstimme", Magdeburg, September 22, 1952:

The "Volksstimme" reports on the trials against agents and spies: "In public discussions the population has shown its contempt for RIAS criminals and agents and a resolution was adopted calling for the enlightenment of neighbors about the infamous lies."

ADN Agency, September 28, 1952:

Under the heading "No Foundation in RIAS Lies," ADN supplied an article for publication in the entire Communist press:

"The agitator US RIAS, as well as US agents, systematically try to alarm the DDR population. The agitation center intends to make the population believe that there will be food shortages. These enemies of Germany intend to stimulate hoarding."

"Die Freiheit", Halle, October 1, 1952:

Under the heading "We Do Not Tolerate Bandits in Our Higher Schools":

"Many highschool pupils collect information by listening to agitation broadcasts of the US station RIAS. This occurred merely because teachers and pupils have not fought consistently against hostile ideology - particularly against the RIAS influence."

"Tägliche Rundschau", Berlin, November 24, 1952:

Reports on the District Peace Conference in Berlin-Koepenick:

"The first secretary of the Greater Berlin Peace Committee, Heinz Zantoff, particularly referred to the peace work within the plants which depends on putting on good cultural performances together with the population and on leading a decisive fight against RIAS agitation and other instigators!"

"Schweriner Volkszeitung", November 13, 1952:

Describes a picture affixed to a house with the slogan:

"The inhabitants of this house want peace and unity! Therefore, nobody listens to RIAS! Follow our example!"

"Leipziger Volkszeitung", November 4, 1952:

In a commentary on the "Law on Gift Parcels" reports: "To what extent profiteers, speculators and saboteurs are affected by this measure is proved, among other things, by the hysterical fuss made by the agitator radio station RIAS with its fight against this law."

RIAS Spews Poison

Excerpts from a 20-page leaflet, published by the Society for Soviet-German Friendship.

"From the very beginning of its broadcasts RIAS has served the US agitation for a new war...."